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# Attractive Roadsides

*Tangible Result Driver – Don Hillis,  
Director of System Management*

An enjoyable transportation experience includes more than a smooth surface – motorists expect to see roadsides free of litter and debris, well-managed and maintained grass and other vegetation and other attractive enhancements. MoDOT works to meet and exceed expectations for roadsides. Beautiful roadsides are visible proof that MoDOT takes pride in everything it does.



## Attractive Roadsides

### *Number of hours of litter pickup by MoDOT staff and incarcerated crews*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Stacy Armstrong, Roadside Management Supervisor

**Purpose of the Measure:**

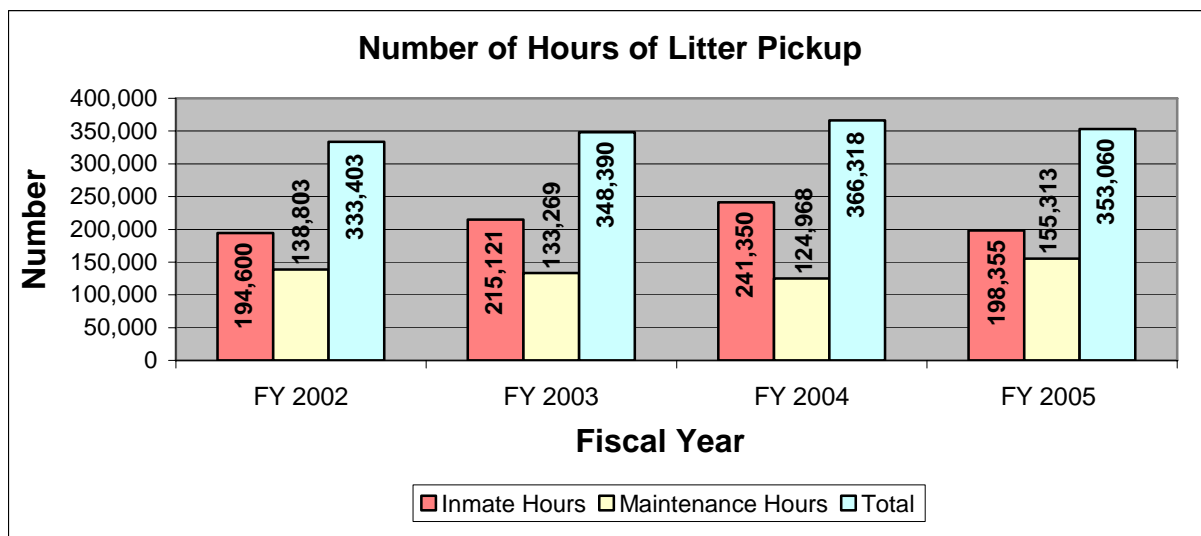
This measure tracks how much time and effort is spent picking up litter. A variety of industry studies have consistently ranked a roadside free of litter as attractive.

**Measurement and Data Collection:**

MoDOT tracks the actual number of hours spent picking up roadside litter. Before April 2005, the incarcerated personnel labor hours were estimated from the MoDOT employees' time. The average number of inmates per inmate leader times the number of hours devoted to litter removal was used. As of April 2005, actual inmate litter pickup hours are recorded. Increasing the use of incarcerated crews frees up MoDOT employees to do other work. Statewide, MoDOT must vie with many agencies for approved incarcerated personnel labor. To remain eligible to receive labor and encourage additional assignments, the Maintenance Division follows and surpasses Department of Correction's standards and requirements.

**Improvement Status:**

Overall, MoDOT does a good job of using incarcerated personnel to pick up litter, keeping roadsides more attractive. In this last year, 353,060 hours were logged and over half were from incarcerated crews, 198,355 hours. A positive trend is that MoDOT consistently uses more than half of the total litter pick up time from incarcerated labor, up to 66%. The Maintenance Division continues to look for ways to increase the potential of receiving additional incarcerated personnel labor.



**Desired  
Trend:**

N/A

## Attractive Roadsides

### *Number of miles in Adopt-A-Highway program*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Stacy Armstrong, Roadside Management Supervisor

#### **Purpose of the Measure:**

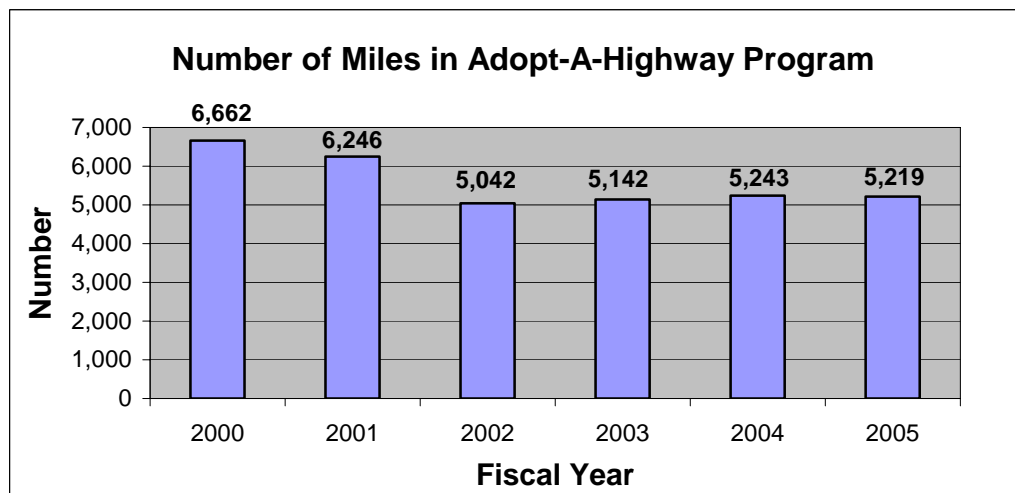
This measure tracks public involvement in taking care of Missouri's roadsides through the Adopt-A-Highway program. Missouri has one of the largest and oldest Adopt-A-Highway programs in the nation. The volunteers learn about litter awareness and some of the challenges MoDOT faces, while allowing maintenance crews to do more critical activities.

#### **Measurement and Data Collection:**

Adopters agree to pick up litter on a designated roadway section for a minimum of four times a year and report their results. Adopters commit to and sign a three-year agreement when they join the program. Urban adoptions are for a minimum of one-half mile and rural adoptions are for at least two miles. Miles are measured by the centerline, however volunteers are responsible for both sides of the roadway. Adopter-related information is maintained in an Adopt-A-Highway database using the Transportation Management System.

#### **Improvement Status:**

In recent years, the number of miles adopted has been increasing. The number of miles adopted from 2000 to 2002 went down because of MoDOT's initiative to reorganize tracking methods, purging inactive groups and because some groups did not renew their agreements. Growth from 2002 to 2004 may be due to increased public awareness through the No MORE Trash!, which is a litter-prevention campaign coordinated by the departments of Transportation and Conservation. Although total miles are still down slightly in 2005, there are 237 new adoptions in the third and fourth quarters. MoDOT is making the Adopt-A-Highway rules and regulations simpler, which may further increase the miles adopted. The program will continue to be promoted at Earth Day, state and county fairs, and other events.



**Desired  
Trend:**



## Attractive Roadsides

### *Number of acres mowed*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Stacy Armstrong, Roadside Management Supervisor

#### **Purpose of the Measure:**

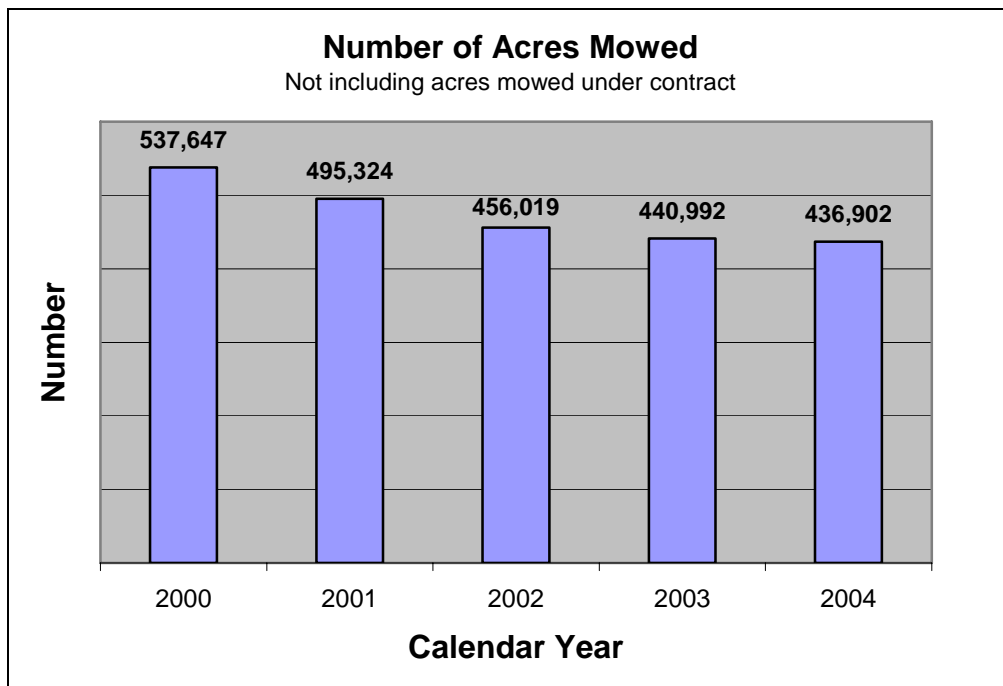
This measure tracks the number of roadside acres mowed. Tracking the number of acres mowed will let MoDOT monitor Missouri roadsides and adjust maintenance methods as needed.

#### **Measurement and Data Collection:**

The number of acres mowed is estimated and recorded in the crew reports. Mowing is usually done April through October. The roadsides begin at the edge of the pavement and can vary in width from 30 feet to 300 feet or more depending on the location. This measure does not include acres mowed by contract.

#### **Improvement Status:**

MoDOT is doing a great job of reducing the number of acres mowed, allowing maintenance personnel time to do other work. Yet, the acres no longer mowed remain attractive through a variety of vegetation and chemical management methods, while still being a good environmental steward. Some of these methods include spraying, placing the right plants in the right places, partnering, etc.



**Desired  
Trend:**



## Attractive Roadsides

*Percent of roadsides that customers feel are attractive*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Jim Carney, State Maintenance Engineer

**Purpose of the Measure:**

This measure will track the percent of MoDOT's roadway system (major and minor) that meet customers' expectation of attractive.

**Measurement and Data Collection:**

To date, a list of roadside quality attributes have been developed and approved based on an industry-wide literature review. The attributes selected for this measure will be used to develop a quality assurance checklist for roadside attractiveness. Data collection for this measure will be based on seasonal work activity related to roadsides. A sampling design will be developed to provide data to reflect roadside attractiveness statewide and will be collected annually. MoDOT Maintenance will collect this data. Data collection will begin Summer 2005.

**Improvement Status:**

**Measure is Under  
Development**

## Attractive Roadsides

### *Percent of mowing along roadsides that meet customers' expectation*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Jim Carney, State Maintenance Engineer

**Purpose of the Measure:**

This measure will track the percent of MoDOT's roadway system (major and minor) that meet our customers' expectations of roadside mowing. The results could be used to determine if the current mowing policy and guidelines are appropriate or need to be changed.

**Measurement and Data Collection:**

To date, a list of roadside attributes reflecting mowing activity have been developed and approved based on an industry-wide literature review. The attributes selected for this measure will be used to develop a quality assurance checklist for roadside mowing and appearance. Data collection for this measure will be based on seasonal work activity related to mowing. A sampling design will be developed to provide data to reflect roadside mowing statewide and will be collected annually. MoDOT Maintenance will collect this data. Data collection will begin Summer 2005.

**Improvement Status:**

**Measure is Under  
Development**